

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An optical system for forming an image of at least a  
portion of an illuminated area on an object may comprise  
a lens positioned a spaced distance from the illuminated  
area on the object and an aperture stop positioned so that  
10 it is substantially co-planar with the image side focal  
plane of the lens. An occluding element is positioned  
between the lens and the illuminated area on the object so  
that the occluding element blocks a predetermined amount  
of light from a brightly illuminated region in the  
10 illuminated area but does not substantially block light  
from a less brightly illuminated region in the illuminated  
area.

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